

20th Solo and Small Firm Conference: Building Your Future-Ready Firm



CO-CHAIRS: **The Honourable Justice Kathleen Erin Cullin**
Ontario Superior Court of Justice

Barbara Hicks, Hicks & Hicks Professional Corporation

Andrew Leroy Rudder, Rudder Law Group

Samantha Seabrook, Seabrook Workplace Law

June 5, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Total CPD Hours = 5 h Professionalism  + 1 h EDI Professionalism 

**The Conference Centre, University of Toronto
89 Chestnut Street
Toronto, ON**

Live In-person and Webcast

SKU CLE26-00602

Agenda

2ND FLOOR FOYER

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration and InfoXchange

BALLROOM WEST, 2ND FLOOR

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and Exhibitors

BALLROOM EAST AND CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. Welcome

The Honourable Justice Kathleen Erin Cullin
Ontario Superior Court of Justice

Barbara Hicks, *Hicks & Hicks Professional Corporation*

Andrew Leroy Rudder, *Rudder Law Group*

Samantha Seabrook, *Seabrook Workplace Law*

9:10 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. OPENING PLENARY: Building Your Future-Ready Firm

Moderator: Phil Brown, Director, Practice Supports and Resources
Law Society of Ontario

Panelists: Rajen Akula, *Akula Law*

Colin Lachance, *PGYA Consulting*

Professor Ed Walters, Co-founder and Former CEO
Fastcase

Professor David Whelan, *University of Illinois Chicago Law*

Note: There will be time for Question and Answer in each session.

BALLROOM WEST, 2ND FLOOR

10:10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break and Exhibitors

2ND FLOOR FOYER

10:10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. InfoXchange

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Registrants can watch/attend Seminar A or Seminar B. Workshops are in-person only.

All sessions will be available on demand after the program.

BREAKOUT ONE

BALLROOM EAST AND CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR

10:45 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. Practice Check-Up: Smart Systems for Running Your Business

Margeaux Peck, Counsel, Practice Review, Practice Audits, *Law Society of Ontario*

Maureen Silcoff, *Silcoff Shacter*

GIOVANNI ROOM, 2ND FLOOR

10:45 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. From Solo to Supported: Hiring and Training that Works (5 m )

Joy Mathews, *Mathews Condo Law Professional Corporation*

Ted Panagiotoulis, *Seabrook Workplace Law*

UNIVERSITY ROOM, 3RD FLOOR – IN-PERSON ONLY – SEATING IS LIMITED

10:45 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. AI in Action: Tools that Transform Your Practice¹

Beau Atkins, *Evolve Law*

Nicole Biros Bolton, *Bird Bolt Law*

Session Change

11:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

BREAKOUT TWO

¹ Note that this workshop will be capped at 80 registrants on a first-come, first-served basis. All registrants will receive a sign-up form via email in late April/early May.

BALLROOM EAST AND CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR

11:50 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Retainers that Work: Clarity, Protection, and Peace of Mind

Elena Roizen, Paralegal, *Adesse Legal Services Professional Corporation*

Sarita Samaroo, *SST Law Professional Corporation*

Safiyya Vankalwala, PracticePRO Manager & Counsel, *Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company (LAWPRO®)*

GIOVANNI ROOM, 2ND FLOOR

11:50 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Lean, Smart, & Profitable: Managing Your Firm's Overhead

Klaudia Hideg, *JC Financials Services*

Lisa Stam, *Springlaw*

Sarah Young, *Beaton Burke Young LLP*

UNIVERSITY ROOM, 3RD FLOOR— IN-PERSON ONLY – SEATING IS LIMITED

11:50 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Beyond Basics: Marketing Your Firm in a Challenging Digital Landscape²

Carl Alphonse, *Alphonse Latham LLP*

Filip Bartos, Director of Marketing, *Mediaforce™*

Joe Bongiorno, President & Founder, *Mediaforce™*

Andrew Leroy Rudder, *Rudder Law Group*

BALLROOM WEST, 2ND FLOOR

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Lunch and Exhibitors


2ND FLOOR FOYER

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. InfoXchange

² Note that this workshop will be capped at 80 registrants on a first-come, first-served basis. All registrants will receive a sign-up form via email in late April/early May.

BREAKOUT THREE

BALLROOM EAST AND CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR

1:45 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. Neurodiversity and the Modern Lawyer: Awareness, Advocacy, and Practice Tips (55 m )

Monica Chohan, *Chohan Law Professional Corporation*

Dr. Gurdeep Parhar, *Adult ADHD Centre and Adult Autism Centre*

Stephanie Sutherland, *Cohen Highley LLP*

GIOVANNI ROOM, 2ND FLOOR

1:45 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. Managing Risk and Responsibility When Using AI in Your Practice

Nicole Biros Bolton, *Bird Bolt Law*

Allan Oziel, *Oziel Law*

UNIVERSITY ROOM, 3RD FLOOR – IN-PERSON ONLY – SEATING IS LIMITED

1:45 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. Mastering Difficult Conversations: Live Skills Lab³

Kerry Knickle, *mp-plus*

Nancy McNaughton, *mp-plus*

BALLROOM WEST, 2ND FLOOR

2:40 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Break and Exhibitors

2ND FLOOR FOYER

2:40 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. InfoXchange

BALLROOM EAST AND CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. CLOSING PLENARY: 50 Tips in 50 Minutes

Beau Atkins, *Evolve Law*

³ Note that this workshop will be capped at 60 registrants on a first-come, first-served basis. All registrants will receive a sign-up form via email in late April/early May.

Phil Brown, Director, Practice Supports and Resources
Law Society of Ontario

Jennifer Reynolds, *Fresh Legal*

4:15 p.m. – 4:25 p.m. Treasurer’s Remarks

Neha Chugh, *Chugh Law Professional Corporation*

4:25 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

4:30 p.m. End of Program

BALLROOM WEST, 2ND FLOOR

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Reception